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GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

1913-14
(Education)

File No. 45-2-of 13

Serial Nos. 1+2

Papers Filed.

Month August 1914

SUBJECT

Mr. K. Subrahmanya
Iyer of Bombay and Commercial Educ

PREVIOUS REFERENCES

LATER REFERENCES

8/12/14

GRS 11]

1913-14

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

(Edn)

NOTES

Edn File No 452/13

FILE HEADING

Interviewing Mr K Subramaniya Iyer of Bombay re Commercial Education &c

From

No	Dated	Received
Diary No	Enclo	Spare Copies	Serial No

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER

NOTES AND ORDERS

It is understood that Mr K S Iyer of Bombay has been invited to attend the meetings of the ensuing session of the Conference. This opportunity ~~may be made use of~~ Advantage maybe taken of by deputing Messrs V Subramania Iyer and S Srinivasa Iyer, to meet Mr Iyer at Mysore to discuss matters relating to Banking, Commercial & M Y Narasimhaiyer

NOTES—First Sheet

CIP—3 000—1 (12

[G R S 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat

Edn File No. 458 of 1913

Serial No	
	Education &c If the suggestion is approved the Inspector-General of Education will be addressed do the needful in the matter
	9885/29 s 14 Dewan) CSS 29/1/14
	(2) The Dewan ; and the matter may be Given as suggested above C 1/4/14
	(3) Issue CSS 1/6/14
8c 1	To the I Gl of Edn No 12053 dated 16 14 Do as above
2	From the I Gl of Edn No D.O 48 dated 13/1/1914 In the reference to 8c 1 January copy of a report from V Subramanya Iyer Head Master Govt High School, Bangalore about his relative now with Mr C Subramanya Iyer of Bombay Sealed
	(4) Gl 22 8 14 Bro Sec 4 Edn CSS 25/8
	(5) The CSS Dewan

NOTE—Contn sheet

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Secs 135-13

(1)

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

12053
Edn 452-13-1

1/6/14

Dear Mr Shamarao,

Mr K. Subramania Iyer of Bombay has been invited to dine with us on the 3rd June and will be here for some days from the 4th June. The Dewan wishes to take advantage of his presence there to have questions connected with Commercial education, joint stock undertakings, Banking &c discussed with him. He thinks that Mr V. Subramania Iyer of the High School 15th Cross, Mr Ramaswamy Iyer of the

Sec 1/6

D O 48

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION
IN MYSORE

Bangalore 13th July 1914

D 812

Edn 459-13
Serial 2

My dear Mr Balasundara Iyer

With reference to D O letter No 12053/Edn dated 1st June 1914 from S P Ta Gopalachari requesting that Mr V Subraman a Iyer Secretary of the Commercial School Bangalore and Mr S Srinivasa Iyer Secretary of the Chamrajendra Technical Institute Mysore may be asked to meet Mr V Subramania Iyer of Bombay to discuss the subjects connected with Commercial Education and to furnish reports on the points discussed I send herewith copy of a report from Mr V Subramania Iyer

Yours sincerely

Edn 45 (5)
Edn 4532-13
-2-

NOTE

on my interview with

Y Subrahmanya Iyer, Esq , B A , L T , J P., F S A A , of Bombay

at Lysore, on the 4th June 1914

I prepared the following queries and took them to him so that they may form the chief topics of our conversation

I

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION

1 Does the Western system of Commercial Education require any modification to suit Indian conditions? If so, what are the modifications needed?

2 What new or special subjects and what foreign languages should be taught in our schools?

3 Has any special method of work to be adopted in the Indian commercial schools to make them more efficient, and to induce a larger number of the trading classes to take interest in such institutions?

4 Should Commercial Education and General Education be combined or separate in the existing circumstances?

5 If they are to be 'Separate', what general subjects would you recommend for being <u>specially</u> taught?

6 On what lines should 'Vernacular' Commercial Education proceed?

7 What suggestions would you make for preparing Vernacular text-books on commercial subjects?

8 On what lines should higher commercial courses of study be organized in this country?

(b

II

COMMERCIAL LITERATURE AND PROPAGANDA

9. If journals and books on commerce were published what special subjects would you give prominence to or deal with in the presentcocircumstances?

10. On what subjects should public or popular lectures be delivered so as to stimulate thought on business life in this country?

III

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL TRAVEL AND STUDY

11. What conditions would you impose on or what special directions would you give to such men as are sent out to foreign countries to study Commercial subjects or methods or possibilities of commercial development?

IV

COMMERCIAL UPLIFT

12. What do you consider the chief draw-backs of the local tradesman? How can they be removed?

13. How can we make the Indian mercantile communities take a higher or wider view of commercial life?

14. How can we effect any improvements in the business aspect of the life of those who do not know English?

15. What steps have we to take to awaken the consciousness of the people in general in the country to the importance of commerce?

V

COMMERCIAL MISSIONARY WORK

16. In what ways are the young men trained in the commercial schools in this country to exert themselves to promote this cause?

17. How can those who return from travel make themselves useful to the commercial world here, apart from improving their own prospects?

VI

COORDINATION OF CERTAIN INDIAN AND WESTERN COMMERCIAL PRACTICES

18. What are the chief defects and merits of the Indian and the Western systems of account-keeping or Book-keeping? How can the systems be co-ordinated with each other?

19. Is the old Indian method of Banking satisfactory or useful? If useful, how can it be improved? Can the modern system or the western system be grafted on it?

20 How far or in what way have the old merchants of Bombay adopted western methods of commercial correspondence or business methods?

C 8

SUMMARY OF MR IYER'S VIEWS

I did not proceed by eliciting answers to my queries seriatim But as the conversation rolled on, the points were taken as they came in handy and Mr Iyer's views were noted There were many divagations. But they also threw some light on the subject, in general The following is a brief but analysed summary of what I gathered

I

1 The Western system of Commercial Education does need some modification The alterations that the Madras Government have made in the Commercial Examination Syllabuses meet our present requirements best

2. 'Business Organisation' should be made a special subject of study in our schools It would be highly profitable to learn Guzeratti and Urdu Telugu is more useful than Tamil from a commercial traveller's point of view

3 Local merchants should be invited to visit commercial schools as often as possible The advantages of modern methods should be explained to them.

Advisory Boards consisting of tradesmen must be formed for purposes of occasional consultation.

These are about the best ways of influencing the trading classes

4. It is a combination of Commercial and General education that produces the best results Nevertheless separate schools also serve a very useful purpose

The present arrangement in the Bangalore Government Commercial School is the best from all points of view

5. The study of English language and literature should be made compulsory in the 'separate' schools, if they are to be efficient.

6. Vernacular Commercial Education should be organised on the lines on which the Koplas of Calicut are being trained. The details should be studied on the spot by some Mysore educational officer.

There is really great scope for Commercial Education in this field.

7. Text-books on Commerce should be written, first in English, by teachers actually engaged in teaching the Vernacular Commercial classes having in view the requirements of the standard. The books must then be examined by experts or specialists.

After this is done, they must be translated into Kanarese. Or, if the expert teachers themselves know Kanarse, they may write the books in Kanarese, only if they be in actual touch with the Vernacular Commercial classes, but not otherwise.

8. It is not easy to organise the higher courses of study unless you can find suitable pupils Such pupils cannot be found unless you make 'Commerce' one of the subjects of the courses of study, in the University. For, pupils with higher general education are required for such commercial courses But such pupils will not take to commercial courses unless they are made subjects for Degrees. This is specially necessary in India.

Unless, therefore, a commercial college is opened at Bangalore and affiliated to the Bombay University, or unless the Madras University introduces Commerce into its curricula, and the Bangalore College is affiliated to it, or lastly unless Mysore has its own University, no real success can be attained in Higher Commercial Education.

(13

But it is possible to organise special courses of study for young men desirous of entering superior financial service Shortly there will be a need in many leading firms and banks in India for men specially trained in higher accountancy in as much as the employment of such hands will be compulsory under the Indian Companies and Insurance Acts In this case experts must be employed as teachers

A study of this question, at Bombay, in consultation with experts there is necessary for further elaboration.

II

9 Useful journals and books on commercial subjects could be published only when we have a staff of specialists or experts who are acquainted with local and Indian conditions Otherwise the writings will serve no useful purpose

Specialists can be employed when the higher classes are opened or when a commercial college is started at Bangalore

10 Lectures can be easily arranged for They will be of two kinds

(1) The Technical, which will be of use only when we have pupils or audiences fit for such courses.

(2) The Popular, whose aim is merely to create an interest in the subjects.

According as the former or the latter is the view of the Government lecturers can be secured and arranged for The latter alone will be useful, at present in Mysore

Some experts in Bombay may be induced to come to Bangalore to deliver courses of lectures on very reasonable terms The selection of men and subjects may be made after consultation.

(4

III

11. The success in all commercial undertakings depends more upon the 'human' element or agency than upon the mechanical If the former be secured by the selection of the right men, travels to Europe or other places will be useful; not otherwise.

Before sending out any one to foreign countries, one must be placed under experts in India for a time. The special aptitudes of such men must be considered by these experts and suitable directions given. Those that have to go to other countries must first pick up sufficient local knowledge. They must know what to look for in foreign countries. It is mere waste of funds to send young men merely to get book-knowledge or knowledge that would be of little practical use to this State or country

There is at present, a need for young men who are good 'actuaries', but they must first undergo some training in India if they are to reap the full benefit of their stay in Europe.

IV

12. It is neither necessary nor desirable to state openly the drawbacks of the Indian tradesman The best way to remove them, whatever they be, is to make our people of the trading class visit other countries and observe the characteristics of the commercial communities there.

Or, lectures may be delivered on the business qualities required for commercial success, such as those exhibited by successful commercial communities

It may, however be useful to talk to small classes or audiences informally on the defects of the Indian tradesman. Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer said here that he would do this himself, to illustrate what he meant.

13, 14 & 15 Lectures, talks and articles in journals in the Vernacular or in English, may help the creation, to some extent, of a commercial 'atmosphere' But the lecturers must not only have read and thought, but also have travelled and observed

But the most effective step would be to take the younger generation in hand and to introduce them to a course of lessons in commercial subjects, in every grade of educational institution from the Elementary to the Collegiate.

The details should be worked out by any Mysore Educationist in consultation with the experts in Commercial centres like Bombay or Madras

If the younger generation could be familiarised with commercial ideas such as Shares, 'Joint Stocks', dividend, Co-operation, they will take a greater interest than at present in the commercial progress of their country And when they make these subjects of their gossip or their serious talk, a new commercial 'atmosphere' will gradually and certainly grow up

V

16 & 17 Those that benefit themselves by foreign travel and study may, when they return, not only lecture and write, on commercial subjects but also actively engage themselves in creating commercial agencies or bodies.

VI

18. On the subject of Book-keeping it is not possible, he said, to give any definite information in an informal or casual talk. The Indian system can be improved But the modern or the Western system is more important The two can be made the subject of lectures in schools

(13

There is a great future for the Western system of Book-keeping and Accounts. It is likely that every Covernment in India will largely employ accountants trained and certificated in Commercial schools or colleges.

19 Whatever may be the merits of the old system of Banking in India, it is not desirable to waste time or energy in teaching that subject in schools Our commercial dealings are largely with Western nations And our success in life depends so much upon our knowledge of the western ways We have, therefore, to make our children study the Western system of Banking.

20. The more successful Houses in Bombay have adopted western methods of work and their success has to be traced largely to their adoption of the western methods of Banking and Account-keeping.

VII

GLNERAL OBSERVATIONS

1 Of the men trained for commercial teaching work, the greatest failures come from the class of graduates who have been made to go through 'one' year's or even shorter courses Their knowledge is purely bookish. They can never make their pupils love their subject though they can mechanically make the pupils pass These teachers often prove the veritable enemies of commercial development in a country; for they only help to kill the spirit of commercial success, in as much as such graduate teachers do not develop in them any of the 'business' qualities, to impress them on their pupils Further, they are unfit for the kind of patient, hard and willing work that success in commerce demands To use Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer's own words They come to us with the question "What must I do for you?" But commercial success wants men who come to us with the question "What can I do for you?". Graduates must go through at least a three

(14)

year practical course and that with a love for commercial life if they are to be useful, not in making pupils pass, but in creating or developing the commercial life The superficial knowledge of commerce these graduates possess only whets their mercenary apetite for money, killing their capacity for deep study or hard work.

2 It is necessary to convert the professors or experts in commercial subjects, if they be of proper qualifications, into a body of advisers to Government on matters commercial, including Banking and Accountancy so as not only to raise their status but also to increase their responsibility and to keep them in touch with the requirements of the country

3 In introducing a course of lectures on commercial subjects, men of acknowledged merit or authority should take the lead Else the first impression will be so weak that it will take a long time to make any progress That was one of the reasons why Prof. Lee Smith was sent for from England to lecture to men in Bombay, before starting the college

4 It is highly desirable that educationists in Mysore keep themselves in touch with experts in all Indian commercial centres so that the former may have the benefit of the experience of these men

5. The possibilities for developing <u>Commercial Education</u> of a <u>high standard</u> are great in Mysore, in as much as Madras is lagging behind and in as much as there is the idea of forming an independent University of Mysore, and above all as there is a growing need for men of commercial qualifications.

(15

LY PROPOSALS

FOR

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1 (a) The most important and also the most urgent step to be taken is that of the creation of a 'commercial atmosphere', which certainly has to be developed gradually

The first thing to be done in this direction, as has been pointed out by Mr. Iyer of Bombay, is to introduce 'Commerce' in some form into our schools, Elementary as well as Higher. The latest authorities on Education, in the West, are taking a higher view of Education and Commerce and are trying to give a 'practical' turn and as they sometimes also call it, an "eificiency value" to Education by 'Commercialising" certain subjects even in the General Education schools without altering the essential character of the general course of study. I have not entered into the details of this important subject here

This is one of the modern developments that requires the most careful consideration and I propose that an Educational officer be deputed to study and suggest the most practicable way of commercialising our schools, without unhinging the existing system.

(b) Next it is necessary to depute some one to prepare himself for going about the country, to talk to people and for writing on commercial subjects, in a popular way.

(c) The scheme of Vernacular commercial education, - I mean "Commercial" proper - should be taken in hand, without any further delay

2. Steps have to be taken at once, for organising the Higher courses of study in Bangalore taking into consideration the demand

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for trained men inside as well as outside Mysore

3 Arrangements have to be made for lectures, at once, by deputing some one to interview competent men in commercial centres.

4. All the syllabuses drafted by me for Elementary, Secondary and Higher courses have been sent to Mr. Iyer of Bombay His reply is awaited.

5. I have submitted other proposals to Government and I am awaiting their kind orders Some of my proposals have anticipated Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer's suggestions.

7th July 1914
Govt High School
Bangalore

(Sd) V Subrahmanya Iyer

"Copy"

Inspector General